NO: 19 MARCH 79

FREE RADIO FOCUS

QSL

To: Mark Dezzani

Date: 28-1-79

Freq: 6275 Khz

Roger Vosene

ZODIAC-49

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POLL RESULTS
F.R. IN ITALY + USA
FOCUS FORUM
LOGBOOK
+ NEWSREEL

FREE RADIO FOCUS magzine.20p + sae or 3IRCs from;13,The Chase,Crawley, West Sussex,RH10 6HW.England.Editor:Mark Dezzani.
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Editorial Welcome to yet another edition,nearly on time!No.20 though will not be out until July due to exam commitments of mine!Anyway, there's alot of news to get through so let's get on with it,all the very best in listening. Mark Dezzani.

focus newsreel+focus newsreel+FOCUS NEWSREEL+focus newsreel+focus news

Offshore News

Radio Caroline. In FRF19 it was stated that R.Caroline was expected back on the air very soon.Since then several other events,some very dramatic,have occured.Caroline has been off the air since October 20th 1978 when during a Radio Mi-Amigo programme a short announcement was given saying that they were going off the air due to trouble with the genorator.A short broadcast was made in the evening and since then, apart from a couple of continuous tone tests in November on low power, nothing has been heard.Initially it was thought that the genorator needed new parts which were obtained,but on closer inspection it was found that it was a near write off & would have to be stripped down & rebuilt.The breakdown in the genorator was due to a lack of maintainence because of R.Mi-Amigo's reluctance to closedown for a few days for fear of losing advertising revenue.While the radioship Mi-Amigo was silent,Radio Mi-Amigo terminated their contract with Caroline due to the long break in transmissions & also due to a letter to RMAs owner, Sylvain Tack from the Spanish authorities asking him to cease operating RMA from Spain or to leave the country as Spain is soon to implement it's own Marine Broadcasting Offences Act as they have signed the Strasbourg Agreement which was neccasary as they have applied to join the European Economic Community(EEC).Caroline is now own it's own but they tried to find alternative Dutch/Flemish organisation to hire airtime & names like Radio 319 & Radio Hollandia were mentioned although nothing came of this.Caroline has also had to organise it's own tender for supplies from Spain or wherever,as RMA previously arranged this. During the time they were off the air & were waiting for parts to repair the genorator with,Pete Chicago took the oppertunity to work on the transmitters & has apparantly improved to 50kW transmitter substantially.

Meanwhile Radio Del-Mare who had their first ship,"Aegir" impounded in September after it floated inshore during a gale,had another ship out at sea.It was called the "Epivan" & was named after their new sponsors,a denture firm called "Epival" who infact owned the shup & were lending it to Gerard Van Dam,innovator of the Del Mare project. The ship which left Holland in December sailed across the North Sea & anchored next to the Mi-Amigo.Caroline had made a deal with Del-Mare to relay them,& part of the deal was that Del-Mare delivered a new genorator,which they did,it was transferred from the Epivan onto the Mi-Amigo in mid-December.However the deal temporarily fell through as Sylvain Tack has a 50/50 share of the Mi-Amigo with the Carolineorganization & he stipulated that no other Dutch service could operate from the ship until he had been paid his share back.The Epivan sailed back to a position off the Dutch coast off Scheveningen well outside Dutch territorial waters near the old Radio Veronica position.In January however,the Dutch authorities took unprecedented action,the navy boarded the Epivan with the aid of one of their own vessels & a helicopter & towed the Epivan into Rotterdam where it was impounded.Legal action is to be taken by Del Mare as the ship was in international waters at the time,they are hopeful of getting the ship back as it's not their's but is owned by Epival & at the time of the raid there was no transmitting equipment onboard.If they are unsuccesful it is possible that they may yet enter into a contract with the Caroline organization to be relayed from the Mi-Amigo.With the departure of RMA things were being reorganized on the Mi-Amigo.....

.....Continued Opposite.....

Focus Newsreel cont'd...

Offshore news cont'd....The excellent mixer and new spotmasters in the old Mi-Amigo studio had been moved downstairs & the old spotmasters (jingle machines) in the Caroline studio & their old mixer was moved to the upstairs studio which would be used by any station that might decide to hire airtime.Meanwhile in mid-January disaster srtuck,on 17/1/79 the Mi-Amigo started to take in water via a hole in the hull.Initially the crew were not worried but by Friday 18th water was still coming in and the pumps would not work,meanwhile a force 9 gale was blowing in the North Sea.By 18.00GMT water was over a foot deep in the downstairs studio & the ship was listing,the presence of a tall mast onboard along with the listing increased the danger of the ship keeling over and sinking.A helicopter from RAF Manston in Kent came out & offered to airlift the crew off the ship,they refused though and instead called out a lifeboat from Walton-on-the-Naze.Just after 20.00GMT 5 men(3 English and 2 Dutch)were taken off the Mi-Amigo by the lifeboat.The 3 Englishmen were dj's Tony Allen,Roger Matthews & Tom Anderson,Wilson the canary was also taken off!At the time of leaving the ship water was not at a critical level but the pumps were not working and water was still coming in and it was estimated that the Mi-Amigo would sink within 24 hours.Unknown to the media though was that another person was still onboard,Peter Chicago of course!He managed to get one pump started on Fri night which was only pumping out what was coming in.On 20/1 a Dutch salvage crew reached the Mi-Amigo relieving an emergency English crew that went out on the Saturday to help Chicago out.The ship was pumped out and the holes welded and work commenced to get the Mi-Amigo shipshape.Meanwhile in mid-February an old weld on the hull came off and the ship started to take in water again.This time though the pumps were started first time and the ship was in no danger.This hole has now been repaired.Caroline should be back soon but are currently waiting for certain supplies.When transmissions do commence they will probably br on 319m,963kHz with 10kW at first in English all day & night.Power is then expected to be upped to 40kW after that.These events obviously raise serious doubts on how long the Mi-Amigo can last and unless a new ship is acquired soon we may lose Caroline for good.Let's look forward to her returning soon though and wish her all the luck in the world,with a ship like the Mi-Amigo they need it!

Landbased Free Radio News.

South Coast Radio.On Sunday 21st January 1979 at 13.15GMT,South Coast Radio were raided by the Eastbourne Radio Regularity Dept. led by Gary Hart and supported by a Police car.South Coast Radio which broadcast to the Eastbourne area on 227m,1324kHz were scheduled to go off the air at 13.00 but stayed on an extra 15minutes to give out live the names of the listeners who had 'phoned in that day,at 13.15 though the raiding party arrived during a live announcement.The microphone was dropped and all those on site proceeded to run!As this happened one of the raiding party shouted,"Stop,or we will set the dogs on you!" All those present on site stopped only to find that they had no dogs.The name and address of everyone on site was taken and the transmitter was confiscated.The GPO did not have a court order for it & so a receipt was asked for by dj Ian Anderson.As well as the operators,Mike & Jon Cottee of the Free Broadcasting Magazine in Edenbridge were present reporting on the SCR transmission for their magazine & weren't in any way participating in the illegal transmission.They have however received a summons along with the operators to appear at Hailsham magistrates court on Wednesday April 4th at 10.00am.The operators intend to plead guilty and argue that they were providing a valuable community service but Mike & Jon are going to vehemently argue that their prosecution is an infingement on the freedom of the press.THE FBM &FRF will be there & we hope to hold a demonstration outside,anyone interested in coming please contact the editor.A full report on the proceedings will appear in FRF20,meanwhile we wish those concerned good luck and we hope to see you there!

Focus Newsreel continued on page 13.

Information on badges see page 13!Badges,see page 13!Badges see p.13!

POPULARITY POLL RESULTS 1979

As compiled by votes from readers of FR Focus, FR Waves & FBM magazine.

Best Station	pts	Best Programmes		Best QSL	
1) EUROPEAN MUSIC R	42	1) E.M.R.	72	1) R.Viking	36
2) Thameside R.(LdnFM)		2) R.Z.I/RZ49	30	2) E.M.R.	34
R.Viking	28	3) Thameside R.		3) R.Iris	22
4) R.Zodiac Int/49	24	R.Viking	28	4) RZI/RZ49	20
5) R.Jackie(Ldn MW)	16	5)Skyport R.		5)R.Luckey Star	
6) R.Mercury		R.Sunshine Int	8	Empire R.	
R.Sunshine Int	14	7) R.Mercury Int		Skyport R.	18
8) ABC England		R.2.20(Ldn)		8) R.Corsair	16
Skyport R.		R.Sylvania		9) R.Sunshine Int	12
Telstar 1(Ldn MW)	12	FRBC/ABC Eu.		10) IBA QSLs(FRG)	10
11) ABC Europe/FRBC		N.London R.		11) R.Cavandish	
R.Cavandish		R.Free Ldn.		R.Snoopy	6
Skull'n'Bones R.S:		ABC England	6	13) R.Mercury	
R.City(Ldn MW)		14) R.Any(Ldn MW)		R.Partisan	4
R.Galaxy(Ldn MW)	6	R.Atlantis FM		15) Celebration R.	3
16) Westside R.		R.Kathy(Hants)		16) R.Bambino	
R.Free London(FM)		R.City(Ldn)	5	ABC Eu/FRBC	
R.2.20(Ldn MW)		18) Westside R.		Black Shadow R.	2
R.Atlantis(Ldn FM)	4	R.Snoopy	4		
20) West London R.(MW)		20) Empire R.			
R.Sylvania	3	Celebration R			
22) Celebration R(Ldn)		R.Invicta FM			
Invicta R.(Ldn FM)		R.Gemini	2		
R.Any(Ldn MW)					
Voice of Britain	2				
26) R.Partisan					
R.Bambino					
Uptown R(Ldn FM)	1				

Many thanks to all those who voted and congratulations to all stations who did well!

Last years winners;

Best Station:
1)ABC England
2)R.Valentine

Best Programmes:
1)ABC England and R.Jackie(London MW)

Best QSL:
1)Time Radio

This years poll had the largest participation so far although it could have been alot better. The increased participation was probably due to collaboration with Free Radio Waves & Free Broadcast magazine, many thanks to them. Some voters in the 'Best Programmes' section mentioned individual programmes, the following programmes were given an individual mention; AJ Beirenes & Barry Stephens of EMR; Roger Vosene's ZO-DX programmes on R.Zodiac 49; Bob Edwards show on Thameside R.(a London FM station); Dave Anderson's DX Programme(no longer on R.Viking); Prince Terry's rock show on Westside R.; Kenny Myers show on R.Free London FM: Roger Tate on London's FM soul station, R.Invicta and finally Roger the Dodger & Gary Knight on West London R. Well done!

In the Worst Station section only about half of the pollers voted & FRBC/ABC Europe received the most votes which may seem strange but the reason was probably due to interference which their wide 'sidebands' used to cause, other stations mentioned were; R.Koralvisser, N.Kent R., R.Tulip, Voices in the Sky, Black Eagle, Landor/Verona/Belinda, Westside & Skyport R. Reasons stated included poor programmes, bad transmission quality often resulting in interference to other stations and in the case of Skyport Radio, for using free radio as a vehicle for their political views.

The winning QSL card can be seen on the front cover and another of the highly placed cards can be seen opposite. Radio Luckey Star's and Radio Corsairs cards can be seen in back copies of FRF. An interesting point is that Corsair has resumed issuing QSL cards after a period of refusing to do so, see our letters page 'Focus Forum' on pp11-12 for some readers views on this and QSLing as a whole.

Emphasis on station's programmes will now be given in FRF & a new item called "Pirate Programme Page" will start next edition and so we want your views on which individual programmes you like, why, on what station, times etc....

Anyway, we look forward to our poll no.4 next year(voting will stat later this year and let's hope we have greater participation. and

This years
"BEST QSL"
as voted in this
years POP' POLL.

4th place QSL can
be seen on the
front cover.

FREE RADIO IN ITALY

Whilst on a ski-ing holiday in the Dolomites your editor skied into a boulder (accidentally I might add!) and so I spent an extra week in Italy over Christmas,in hospital.One positive aspect to come out of this though was that I was fortunate enough to get hold of a radio with an FM band on it and so I could listen to the Italian free radio stations for myself.First though,here's a quick resume on the situation over there and how it came about.

The first station to start in Italy was called Radio Parma in Parma on 102MHz,soon many others started.In 1976 the authorities raided Radio Milano Int, and in the subsequent court case the Italian Constitutional Court gave the following,suprising decision;

They said that existing laws did not prevent the operation of broadcasting stations by other parties than the official broadcasting company,RAI.Any person or organization may therefore start & operate a radio or tv service providing that the following conditions are fulfilled:1)Transmitters should have a local target area only,e.g. a city or a province...2)They must not interfere with the official broadcasting company RAI,or with other services...3)A law will have to rule how the authorization shall work in practice.The Italian government is expected to prepare a bill in the near future.

There are now between 500-1000 private stations operating in every part of Italy,Rome & Milan having the highest activity though.With very few exceptions they operate in the FM band usually but not always in the 100-104MHz range,there are also some 50tv stations operating in the UHF band.

Anyway,the following stations were logged on X-mas day in Trento, a city in North East Italy.Radio Norde from Bolzano on 96MHz with a very good signal with excellent modulation,format was non-stop disco music with phone-in requests...R.Bolzano,Dolomite was heard on 102 MHz with a strong signal,slightly overmodulated.They played disco & soft rock,the dj was notably bad,waiting for the vocals on a record to start & then talking!!...R.Zac Int',location unknown on 95.8MHz, this one played soft rock but was a bit unpredictable as traditional mountain music was played quite often,very few announcements...Radio Dolomite from Trento on 103MHz with a fair signal playing continuous disco music,the dj wasn't very proffesional but at least he didn't ego trip like the dj's on the other stations.Several other statiqus were also heard but I couldn't identify them due to the fact that I cannot speak Italian.My overall impression was that the stations in this region lacked variation in music formats...Continued Ov page

LOGBOOK. Key;E=England/English;D=Dutch;F=Finnish;Sw=Sweden;P=Pop;
~~Oldies~~;T=Test transmission;L=Listeners letters;DX=DX Information/Free
Radio news;WL=Where logged;Px=Programmes;A=Album tracks;DDR=East Germany.

	Station	Date	Freq	Time, GMT	S:I:N:F:O:	P	WL
1)	Radio Viking	5/11	6261	09.05	2;4;3;2;2;	P	E
2)	R.Sunshine Int	5/11	6235	09.10	5;5;5;5;5;	P	E
3)	R.Sunshine Int	5/11	7325	09.30	5;5;5;5;5;	P	E
4)	R.Genini	5/11	6240	10.05	5;5;5;4;4-5:	Gens	E
5)	R.Corsair	5/11	6254	10.10	4;5;4;4;4;	P/A	E
6)	R.Zodiac 49	5/11	6263.5	10.15	3;3;3;3;3;	P	E
7)	R.Paradise	5/11	6219	10.20	3;5;3;3;3;	P	DDR
8)	R.Koralvisser	5/11	6285	10.25	5;5;4;4;4;	P/O/D	E
9)	R.Valleri	5/11	6202.5	10.50	2;4;3;2;2;	P	E
10)	R.Solent City Int	5/11	6268.5	11.20	2;4;2;2;2;	P	E
11)	R.Zodiac 49	5/11	6270	11.45	4;4;3;3;3;	P	E
12)	Westside R.Dublin	5/11	6276.7	11.55	4;5;4;4;4;	A	E
13)	R.Koralvisser	12/11	6275	08.35	5;5;4;4;4;	P/O/D	E
14)	R.Corsair	12/11	6254	10.00	5;5;4;4;4;	P/A	E
15)	R.Zodiac 49	12/11	6270	10.05	3;4;3;3;3;	A	E
16)	R.Valleri	12/11	6202.5	10.10	2;5;3;3;2;	P	E
17)	R.Koralvisser	12/11	6300	10.40	5;5;4;4;4;	P/O/D	E
18)	R.Nordica	12/11	6226	10.50	2;4;3;2;2;	P	E
19)	Empire Radio	12/11	6200	11.15	5;4;5;4;4;	P/A	E
20)	European Music R	12/11	6265	11.30	3;5;4;3;3;	P	E
21)	Westside R.Dublin	12/11	6280	11.55	4;5;5;4;4;	A	E
22)	R.Zodiac 49	12/11	6263.5	12.20	2;5;3;3;2-3;	P	E
23)	R.Solent City Int	12/11	6235	12.40	2;5;3;3;2-3;	P	E
24)	R.Scandinavia	12/11	6215	20.30	Unknown	P	E
25)	European Music R	19/11	6265	09.50	3;5;3;3;3;	P/DX	E
26)	R.Atlantis	19/11	6275	09.55	3;5;3;3;3;	P	Sw
27)	R.Corsair	19/11	6254	10.05	3;5;3;3;3;	P/A	E
28)	R.Valleri	19/11	6202.5	10.10	2;5;3;3;2;	P/O	E
29)	R.Benelux	19/11	6228	10.15	3;5;4;3;3;	P/A	Sw
30)	R.Mercury Int	19/11	6270	10.20	3;5;4;3;3;	P	E
31)	R.Koralvisser	19/11	6292	10.40	5;5;4;4;4;	P/O/D	E
32)	R.Mercury Int	19/11	6250	10.45	4;5;4;3;3-4;	P	E
33)	R.Mercury Int	19/11	6210	10.50	4;5;4;4;4;	P	E
34)	R.Paradise	19/11	6230	11.00	3;4;5;3;3;	P	Sw
35)	Skyport R.	19/11	6210	11.10	4;1;4;4;2;	P/A	E
36)	Westside R.Dublin	19/11	6280	11.15	4;5;4;4;4;	A	E
37)	European Music R	19/11	7315	11.25	5;5;4;4;4-5;	P/L	E
38)	R.Sunshine Int	19/11	7325	11.30	5;5;5;5;5;	P	E
39)	R.Sunshine Int	19/11	6235	11.50	3;5;4;4;3-4;	P	E
40)	R.Rastafari Int	19/11	6254	12.05	4;5;4;3;3-4;	Reggae	E
41)	Kountryside R(VOB)	19/11	6270	12.20	3;5;4;4;3-4;	P	E
42)	Radio Any	19/11	6270	13.10	3;5;4;3;3;	P	E
43)	R.Sunshine Int	~~26~~19/11	6235	09.55	3;5;4;4;3-4;	P	E
44)	R.Valleri	26/11	6202.5	10.10	3;5;3;3;3;	P	E
45)	R.Cavandish	26/11	6260	10.15	4;4;4;4;4;	P	E
46)	R.Zodiac 49	26/11	6275	10.20	4;4;4;4;4;	P	E
47)	R.Sunshine Int	26/11	7325	10.30	5;5;4;4;4;	T	E
48)	R.Zodiac 49	26/11	7350	10.35	5;5;4;4;4;	P/T	E
49)	R.Zodiac 49	26/11	7360	10.45	5;5;4;4;4;	P/A	E
50)	R.Corsair	26/11	6254	11.05	5;5;4;4;2-3;	P/T	E
51)	R.Zodiac 49	26/11	7330	11.40	5;2;4;4;3;	A	E
52)	Westside R.Dublin	26/11	6280	12.00	5;3;4;4;4;	Reggae	E
53)	R.Rastafari Int	26/11	6254	12.10	5;5;4;4;4;	P	E
54)	R.Nordica	26/11	6235	12.30	2;5;3;3;2-3;	P	E
55)	R.Solent City Int	26/11	6290	12.45	Unknown	T	E
56)	R.Solent City Int	3/12	6285	09.10	3;4;3;3;3;	P	E
57)	R.Solent City Int	3/12	6280	09.30	3;4;3;3;3;	P	E
58)	Radio Atlantis	3/12	6237.7	10.10	3;4;3;3;3;	P	E
59)	R.Corsair	3/12	6254	10.15	4;5;5;4;4;	P/A	E
60)	R.Valleri	3/12	6202.5	10.20	2;5;3;3;2-3;	P/O	E

(All progs in English unless otherwise stated!)..Continued Opposite.....

Logbook continued from opposite...

61)R.Condor Int.....3/12...6317....11.15.....3;5;3;3;3;..A.....E....
62)Westside R.Dublin...3/12...6280....12.05.....4;5;5;4;4;..A .....E....
63)European Music R....3/12...6265....12.15.....3;5;3;3;3;..P.....E....
64)R.Zodiac 49.....3/12...7350....12.40.....5;5;4;4;4;..P.....E....
65)R.Cavandish.....3/12...6260....12.50.....4;5;4;4;4;..P.....E....
66)R.Solent City Int...9/12...6285....12.45.....3;4;3;3;3;..P/T....E....
67)R.Mercury Int.....10/12...6267....08.45.....2;3;2;2;2;..P.....E....
68)R.Paradise.....10/12...6235....09.05.....2;4;3;2;2;..P.....DDR..
69)R.Viking.....10/12...6225....09.30.....3;4;3;3;3;..P.....DDR.
70)R.Viking.....10/12...6275....09.55.....3;4;3;3;3;..P.....DDR.
71)R.Zodiac 49.....10/12...6270....10.00.....4;4;4;3;3-4;P.....E...
72)R.Corsair.....10/12...6254....10.10.....5;5;4;4;4;..P/A ...E...
73)R.Cavandish.....10/12...6260....10.15.....4;5;4;4;4;..P.....E...
74)R.Condor Int.....10/12...6317....10.30.....3;4;3;3;3;..A.....E...
75)Empire Radio.....10/12...6200....10.40.....3;3;4;4;3;..P/A....E...
76)R.Solent City Int..10/12...6235....11.10.....4;5;4;4;4;..P.....E...
77)R.Valleri.....10/12...6202.5..11.40.....4;3;4;3;3;..P.....E...
78)Westside R.Dublin..10/12...6280....12.10.....5;5;5;4;4-5;A.....E...
79)Voice of Britain...10/12...6210....12.25.....5;5;4;4;4;..P.....E...
80)F.R.B.C.....17/12...6214.5..09.25.....5;5;5;5;5;..P.....E...
81)European Music R...17/12...6265....09.40.....5;5;5;4;4-5;P/DX...E...
82)R.Mercury Int.....17/12...6275....09.55.....5;4;4;4;4;..P.....E...
83)R.Corsair.....17/12...6254....10.05.....5;4;4;4;4;..P/A....E...
84)R.Condor Int.....17/12...6240....10.15.....5;5;4;4;4;..A.....E...
85)R.Valleri.....17/12...6202.5..10.25.....2;4;3;3;2;..P.....E...
86)R.Viking.....17/12...6228....10.35.....2;4;3;3;2;..P.....E...
87)Voice of Britain...17/12...6210....11.20.....4;2;4;4;2-3;P.....E...
88)United R.Europe....17/12...6210....11.20.....Unknown.....P.....E...
89)European Music R...17/12...7315....11.30.....3;4;4;3;3;..P.....E...
90)R.Condor Int.....17/12...6243.3..12.50.....5;5;4;4;4;..P.....e...
91)Free Radio Brdc.Co.17/12...6220....13.00.....5;5;5;5;5;..P.....E...
92)R.Enoch.....24/12...6290....10.00.....Unknown...Politics.E...
93)R.Mercury Int.....24/12...6260....10.10.....4;4;4;4;4;..P.....E...
94)Westside R.Dublin..24/12...6280....10.15.....4;5;4;4;4;..A.....E...
95)R.Corsair.....24/12...6254....10.25.....3;4;3;3;3;..P/A....E...
96)Voice of Britain...24/12...6210....10.30.....4;4;4;4;4;..P.....E...
97)Empire Radio.....24/12...6200....10.35.....4;4;4;4;4;..P/A....E...
98)R.Condor Int.....24/12...6240...10.40.....5;4;4;4;4;..Big D..E...
99)R.Valleri.....24/12...6202.5..11.40.....3;2;3;2;2;..P.....E...
100)R.Zodiac 49.....24/12...6270....11.45.....4;4;3;3;3;..P.....E...
101)R.Viking(via RZ49).24/12...6270....12.05.....4;4;3;3;3;..P.....E...
102)European Music R...24/12...6235....12.10.....2;5;3;3;2;..A/T....E...
103)European Music R...24/12...6243.3..12.45.....2;3;3;3;2;..A/T....E...
104)Radio Enoch.....25/12...6272.5..09.20.....3;4;3;3;3;Politics.E...
105)R.Gemini.....25/12...6240....10.05.....5;5;4;4;4;..Gems...E...
106)R.Cavandish(Live)..25/12...6260....10.40.....3;4;3;3;3;..P.....E...
107)R.Viking(via RZ49).25/12...6250....10.50.....4;4;4;4;4;..P.....E...
108)Voice of Britain...25/12...6270....11.00.....1;4;3;2;1-2;P.....E...
109)Westside R.Dublin..25/12...6280....11.10.....4;4;4;4;4;..O.....E...
110)R.Zodiac 49.....25/12...6250....11.50.....4;4;4;4;4;..P.....E...
111)R.Condor Int(CQ)...25/12...6240....12.35.....4;4;4;4;4;..QSO....E...
112)Voice of Britain...26/12...6270....10.05.....4;4;3;3;4;..P.....E...
113)R.Gemini.....26/12...6240....10.15.....5;5;4;4;4;..Gems...E...
114)R.Solent City Int..26/12...6280....11.10.....3;5;4;3;3-4;P/O....E...
115)Westside R.Dublin..26/12...6280....11.20.....4;2;4;4;2;..O.....E...
116)R.Condor Int.....26/12...6240....11.25.....5;5;4;4;4;..A.....E...
117)R.Zodiac 49.....26/12...6270....11.30.....3;5;4;4;3-4;P.....E...
118)R.Solent City Int..26/12...6235....12.30.....3;5;3;3;3;..P.....E...
119)Westside R.Dublin..26/12...6230....13.25.....Unknown.....T.....E...
120)R.Enoch.....31/12...6272.5..10.10.....2;2;3;3;2;..Pol'...E...
121)R.Condor Int.....31/12...6240....10.15.....4;5;4;4;4;..P/A....E...
122)Voice of Britain...31/12...6270....10.20.....2;2;2;2;2;..P.....E...
123)R.Valleri.....31/12...6202.5..10.45.....3;5;3;3;3;..P/O....E...
124)R.Viking.....31/12...6228....10.50.....2;4;2;2;2;..P.....E...
125)Empire Radio.....31/12...6200....11.05.....5;5;4;4;4;..P/A....E...

Continued Overpage.....

Logbook continued...

126)Tower Radio.....31/12...6275....11.10.....2;3;3;3;2;..P/T....E....
127)Westside R.Dublin..31/12...6230....12.05.....5;5;4;4;4;..A.....E....
128)R.Paradise.....1/1/79.6235....09.45.....3;4;4;3;3;..P.....E....
129)R.Solent City Int...1/1....6235....10.10.....3;5;3;3;3;..P.....E....
130)R.Condor Int.....1/1....6240....12.10.....4;5;4;4;4;..A.....E....
131)Westside R.Dublin...1/1....6268.3..14.05.....5;5;4;4;4;..QQ.....E....
132)R.Corsair.....7/1....6254....10.10.....3;5;3;3;3;..P/A....E....
133)Voice of Britain....7/1....6270....10.15.....2;5;3;3;2;..P.....E....
134)R.Valleri.....7/1....6202.5..10.50.....2;4;3;2;2;..P/O....E....
135)R.Condor Int.....7/1....6240....11.10.....4;4;3;3;4-3;P/A....E....
136)Westside R.Dublin...7/1....6230....12.00.....5;5;4;4;4-5;A.....E....
137)R.Sunshine Int.....14/1....7325....08.55.....5;5;5;5;5;..P/T....E....
138)R.Sunshine Int.....14/1....6235....09.10.....4;5;5;4;4;..P/T....E....
139)R.Viking.....14/1....6249....09.15.....5;5;5;5;5;..P.....E....
140)R.Corsair.....14/1....6254....10.15.....3;3;4;4;3;..P/A....E....
141)R.Nolan.....14/1....6260....10.20.....4;5;5;4;4;..P.....E....
142)R.Solent City Int..14/1....6230....10.25.....4;4;3;3;3;..P/T....E....
143)R.xZodiac 49.....14/1....6270....10.30.....4;4;3;3;3-4;P/A....E....
144)R.Enoch.....14/1....6272.5..10.35.....3;2;4;3;2;Politics.E....
145)R.Cavandish.....14/1....6260....11.00.....4;3;5;4;4;..P.....E....
146)R.Gloria.....14/1....6260....11.05.....2;1;4;4;1;..P.....E....
147)R.Solent City Int..14/1....6210....11.10.....3;1;4;4;1;..P/T....E....
148)United R.Europe....14/1....6210....11.15.....4;1;4;4;1;..P.....E....
149)R.Valleri.....14/1....6202.5..11.20.....2;5;3;3;2-3;P/O....E....
150)Bell Radio.....14/1....6227.5..11.25.....2;5;3;3;2;..A.....E....
151)R.Solent City Int..14/1....6268.5..12.15.....3;4;3;3;3;..P/T....E....
152)R.Corsair.....14/1....6230....12.20.....4;5;4;4;4;..A/T....E....
153)R.Solent City Int..14/1....6282.5..12.25.....4;5;3;3;3-4;P/T....E....
154)Uptown R(via Skyp')14/1....6230....12.30.....5;3;4;4;3-4;A.....E....
155)Rsci(NE tx).....14/1....6235....12.35.....2;5;4;4;3;..P.....P....

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Addresses;1,69,70,86,101,107,113,124,139)PO Box 4040,Amsterdam,Holland::4,105)',Farm Way,Bushey,Watford,Herts,England::5,14,27,35,40,50,53,59,72,73;83;95;132,140,152;154)134,East-Worth Rd.,Chertsey,Surrey,England::9,12,16,21,28,36;44,52,60,61;62,74,77,78,84;85,90,94,98,99;109,111,115,116,119,121,123,127;130,131,134;135,136,149)53,Charleston Rd.,Dublin 6,Ireland::18,29;30,32,33,54,67,82,93)PO Box 41;Dedemsvaart;Holland::24)Box 14006,Malmo,Sweden::6;11,15,22,41,42;46,48,49,51,64,71;79,87,88,96;100,108,110,112;117,122;133,143,148,150)13,The Chase,Crawley,West Sussex,RH10-6HW.UK::2,3,7;10;19;20,23,25,26;34,37,38,39;43,45,47,55;56,57,58,63;65,66,68,75;76,81,89,97,102,103,106,114,118,125;128,129,137,138,142,145,147,151,153,155)Kent Place,Norwell,Newark,Notts,Eng::141)PO Box 11,Vlagtwedde,N.E.Netherlands::146)48,Wilmington Rd.,Leicester,UK.::92,104,120;144)x.....7,Woodside Grove,Hartburn,Cleveland,England::80,91)PO Box 41,Dedemsvaart,Holland::

Deadline for contributions for FRF 20's Logbook=Thurday 29/3/78.

Many thanks to the following;Mike Burden,Mark Hattam,Ken Baird & Edwin Southwell for taking alot of time & trouble to contribute their loggings for this months log,thanks!

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Wanted! ANY CRYSTALS in the 48mb,please contact Box 'X',c/o 13,The Chase, Crawley,W.Sussex,RH10-6HW,England.

Wanted! The following records,"White Bird" from the group 'It's a beautiful day' and "He's gonna step on you again" by John Congas from 1971. Please contact,Box R,c/o 13,The Chase,Crawley,W.Sussex,RH10-6HW,England.

Badges!see page 3!Badges!see page 3!Badges!see page 3!Badges!see page 3!

FRS News printed by the Free Radio Service,Reading includes offshore news, landbased info ,CB pages and a comprehensive selection of publicity material for sale.A copy is obtained free with each order received for the material they sell so how about their Caroline badges for 12p+sae from FRS,BCM-BRFM,London,WC1V-6XX.

Next issue of FRF (No.20) is out in April for 20p+sae or 3IRCs,order now! Payment by blank postal orders or cash or IRCs only.(Now cheques!)Thanks!

American Free Radio-"Voice of the Voyager"

Much interest recently has been shown by American DXers at the European free radio stations.This interest has since innovated some people to set up a 48mb station of thier own.

The Voice of the Voyager started with a dream or thought of someday broadcasting over the air with no restrictions and free expression. So one day an old transmitter was spotted in an electronics shop,a Hallicrafters HT-20 which transmits with 100watts output and has a frequency range of 1.7-31MHz.It had an experimental audio circuit in it & so it has fantastic audio quality,a bandwidth of 7kHz.When the operators picked it up though,it wasn't working so the rig sat idle for a long time until the operators decided to fix it.It needed a new high voltage power supply tube which cost $20 for a new one but was well worth it.With transmitter,tape recorder and microphone they signed on for the first time on 25th December 1977.The signal barely got out & there was problems with the audio.By March '78 a dipole had been erected and the audio problem solved and a signal was put out which was being heard a few hundred miles away.A DX magazine in the USA called FRENDX started listing reports of the Voice of the Voyager from all over the U.S & Canada.Before long everyone knew about VOV as something like this had never before been attempted in North America & so it fast became a legend,it was the first,the most powerful & the longest operating pirate in North America.

The VOV started out with a 1 hour broadcast every Saturday night local time,05.00-06.00GMT but soon worked it's way up to a 3hr Friday & Saturday night schedule.It couldn't last forever though,one operator left for the army & another went to school but before he left the FCC, (Federal Communications Commission) paid him a visit & officially busted the station on 28th August 1978.This operator didn't last too long at school & so on 4th November '78 the VOV came on again.As of this day it's still on but it holds a different meaning now.It started as a hobby & we proved it could be done,but the FCC tried to opress us,so now the VOV's battle is to have hobby broadcasting legalized,a free expression radio.

When the VOV started the operators kept their identities concealed, no-body knew the location.The FCC knows now & so we let everyone know who we are & where we are at.

Private radio is a reality here in the United States,that's why there's very little pirating.We want to make it a legal hobby which a very conservative government won't go with,they are still using 1934 rules here.

The VOV took the first big step here in bootleg pirate radio.The main pirate activity prior to VOV was on MW on 1605-1630kHz on the edge of the medium wave band.Most operate 10-50watts and are meant for a local audience only & have good programmes.Most are from New York City and they have revolutionized a listener call-in programme by using 'Interval Telco test loops' which keeps the FCC from tracking them down via the telephone company(Bell.)

Voice of the Voyager technical details.

Power 100watts from a Hallicrafters 100watt transmitter.Frequency is controlled by a VFO.Old frequency was 5850kHz.The present frequency is 6220kHz and a future frequency is to be 6210kHz.The aerial used is a ¼ wave dipole and audio bandwidth is 7kHz.(Transmitter model is "HT-20) Studio equipment is;2 channel mixer,homebrew,3 tape-recorders and two microphones.

Many thanks to Scott Blixt for telling about his station.Scott did send us a copy of their QSL card,which is not exactly a work of art but is one of the most sought after QSLs in the USA.Unfortunately we have not got space to reprint it in this edition!

The new edition of "Monitor" magazine which is exclusively devoted to Offshore radio stations should be out around now following a delay in publication,this edition is a 'Radio DEL MARE' special.It can be obtained by sending a 25p postal order + sae to;

31,Avondale Road,Benfleet,Essex SS7 1EH,England.

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Focus Forum.

Your views on Free Radio.

The first letter is from Mike Burden,who has alot to say on something which has been annoying station operators,Mike from Newark,Notts through his service to free radio stations comes in contact with alot of operators & is well qualified to comment on this.....
.."One topic that has recently been generating some discussion and debate in radio circles is the practice of radio stations verifying reception reports with their QSL cards.Some stations both legal , (e.g.Radio Finland) and pirate (e.g.Radio Corsair) have recently adapted new policies with regard to QSLing.For instance,Radio Finland recently stopped issuing QSL cards,stickers,pennants and souvenirs but now answers reception reports with plain unsigned cards showing pictures of Finnish landscapes,etc..In connection with this change of policy,a spokesman for R.Finland said,"We are a radio station,not a supermarket!" In the pirate world it is common knowledge that R.Corsair no longer issues QSL cards,but letters containing requests and dedications are welcome.One or two other stations(free radio) are also reported to be having a rethink over their QSL practice.

Many people will no doubt be disapointed that some stations are adopting this attitude,but really it is very understandable.Radio stations exist primarily to broadcast programmes & not to verify reception reports,however useful they may be!What most of them value above all else is some evidence in their correspondence of genuine interest in & appreciation of what they are doing,so comments & suggestions on their programmes are always welcome.Indeed even some major legal broadcasters will not verify reports unless these items are included in the report. So obviously this approach on the part of the people who write can make all the difference between receiving and not receiving a QSL.It gives the station staff much more of an inducement to reply to the letter,& in the case of pirate stations it also gives much more encouragement to carry on broadcasting at all.Moreover,small pirate stations do not have the resources of the major legal broadcasters && so cannot devote so much time,effort & money to answering listeners letters(especially those that are frankly not worth it!)

Yet despite any QSL cards,stickers,pennants etc.. that they may issue,the product that the stations are offering is their programme content and the printed matter is merely promotional material to advertise this product.Small wonder,therefore,that many station staffs become a bit disgruntled with continually having to send out QSL cards and other material in answer to vague and outline reports devoid of detail,programme items,comments,words of appreciation,human interest or return postage.It is painfully obvious that the writers of such letters are just QSL hunters who regard the actual programme broadcast by the station as secondary & incidental to the cards and stickers it offers.They should remember that the recipients of their correspondence,in the case of pirate stations at any rate,have to try and make a hobby out of replying to these letters!

When I was a small boy,I often used to visit trade fairs,exhibitions etc.. as it was a favourite pastime of mine to swoop on all the stands and grab as many leaflets & brochures as I could,even though I did not want to buy or was not vaguely interested in the products that they were advertising.I just mindlessly collected the stuff because it was free or very cheap.I still go to such events & now notice that the salesmen keep a watch on their material,they invariably stand over it or hide it when a party of maurading schoolchildren appear but prominently display it when anyone looking likely to buy appears.They evidently realise that there is no point in letting the children have their brochures because the kids cannot or willnot buy anything(even though they will make off with the bumf!)

I believe that this state of affairs has a close parallel in what I have been writing about here.Indeed radio station staff who are constantly occupied in answering poor unwelcome letters from a pure 'QSL hunter' must feel like salesmen who rarely succeed in selling their product,but instead spend alot of time & effort....Continued Overpage!

Focus Forum continued...

..."in distributing their promotional material to people who do not really provide a market for their product.In the next edition of 'Free Radio Focus' there will be a page with the heading 'Pirate Programme Page' which gives an insight into what is being offered by the various pirate stations.We hope short wave listeners,DXers & Free Radio followers will enjoy reading it,contribute to it by writing about various programmes heard on free radio stations and that they will tune in and listen to some of the programmes available for their enjoyment and appreciation.Why not discover some of the programmes on 48m on Sunday mornings.....Mike Burden,Newark,Notts,Eng."
...Thanks very much Mike for your long letter,I agree with most points & think that stations don't mind bad criticism of their programmes as long as there is an indication that their work was listened to.Anyway, send in your point of view,here's one from another point of view.....
..."I am always distressed when any station,whether legitimate or pirate decides to stop QSLing reception reports.I refer to Radio Corsair's recent decision in this regard mentioned in issue no.18.This presumably explains why Radio Corsair has ignored two reception reports sent by this listener.If reception reports are 'boring' to Radio Corsair's staff,has it and the many other free radios with similar programme formats considered how boring their continuos diet of rock music and mainly unintelligable DJ chatter may be to listeners?I acknowledge there are a few exceptions,but why do most seek to emulate the worst of American radio & Radio Luxembourg?

Sunday mornings on the 48mb is the sound of cacophony and mutual interference.The raison d'etre of Free Radio escapes me unless it is to thin out the ranks of unemployed DJ's.An alternative to legal radio?It seems to me that if Free Radio programming is supposed to be some sort of cure,then the cure is worse than the alledged sickness...Paul A. Karagianis,Sonning Common,Nr. Reading."....Many thanks Paul for some valid points.As you say there are some exceptions & it is these exceptional programmes which we will feature in Pirate Programme Page next edition so write in with details of specific shows you enjoy listening to on the 48mb or on any other free radio stations.Also send us your views on these two letters here & any other topic on free radio, Paul,by the way sent some news on the Mebo II's recent activity,but since it is no longer to do with free radio,as the ship has now been sold to the Libyan authorities we will not print it this edition as we are rather short of space,thanks anyway Paul.

Another issue we would like to raise is about this magazine.We want to know whether you think we should keep the logbook going.Although it provides a comprehensive listing of all stations on the 48mb it does take alot of valuable space and we want to know if you want us to keep it going as it is now or if we should print less details which will take less space or whether it should go altogether.OK,we look forward to your letters now!

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French Free Radio.

Following our article on French Free Radio in FRF18 here are some more French FM Free Radio stations...Satellit 3000 is the name of a new station broadcasting on Sundays to the Languedoc-Roussillon region of France from 12.00-18.00 & 00.00-06.00 in stereo on 92.2 & 98MHz.....
Radio Cailloux was heard on 9/11/78 broadcasting to Grenoble on 101MHz at 19.30hrs.Address;Le Casse-Noix-BP 22 a 38120 St. Egrave.....

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Special Announcement.

Free Radio Waves magazine has temporarily stopped publication until July 1979 due to various other commitments of the editor,meanwhile all those who sent in an order for a new edition should already have been reimbursed or should be in the the next few weeks.Any enquiries should be addressed to;Simon Parry(Editor),Flagstones,West Heath Lane, Sevenoaks,Kent,England.

Free Radio Focus.Due to similar commitments of the editor of FRW(see above) the next edition of Free Radio Focus will be out in early July, and not in April as mentioned on page 9.See elsewhere for details.